

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9 have been amended to further distinguish from the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

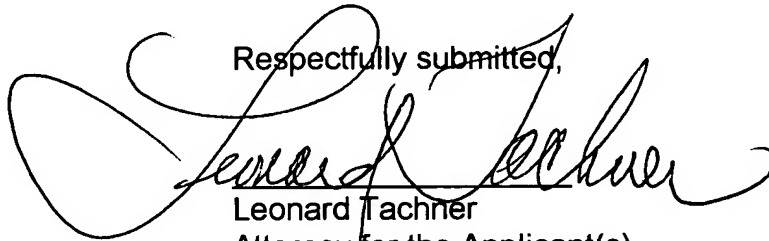
The pending claims have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) and 103 over Bramham (U.S. Patent No. 5,067,921). Bramham discloses an immersion suit having three layers, inner, outer and intermediate. Two parallel inner air chambers are formed by spot welding the intermediate layer to each of the inner and outer layers as shown in Bramham's FIGs. 2 and 3 and as described at column 2, lines 61-68. He also discussed the alleged advantage of having two separate compartments at column 2, lines 25-28.

Applicant's claims have been amended to recite a two-layer wetsuit fabric having only an inner layer and an outer layer forming interconnected air channels. This configuration is clearly distinguishable from Bramham and results in the aesthetically attractive pattern of inflated regions or cells (see for example Application page 2, lines 9-10 and page 4, lines 11-13). Moreover, unlike Bramham, the resulting cell pattern is externally visible (see amended claims 2, 7 and 9 and Applicant's FIGs. 2 and 3). It should be noted that Bramham does not disclose nor suggest a wetsuit fabric in which the inner and outer layers are affixed to one another at selected locations to form an externally visible cell pattern formed by selective air inflation.

AMENDMENT Continued
Serial No. 10/804,665

In view of the noted amendments and remarks, it is believed that the rejections on prior art have been rendered moot and should now be withdrawn. An early allowance of pending claims 1-10 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 5/26/05

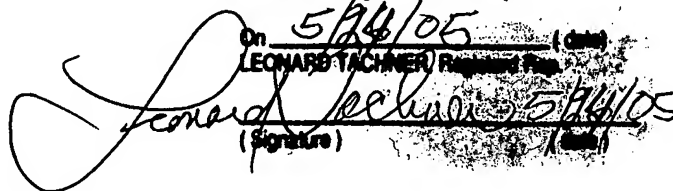
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